

Attorney Docket No. 10559-226001
Serial No.: 09/594,352
Amendment dated November 12, 2003
Reply to office action dated August 28, 2003

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Applicant herewith affirms the election of the Group II claims 11-26. Please retain the remaining claims as "withdrawn from consideration".

The title stands objected to as not being descriptive. In response, the title is amended herewith to "Network Routing Using a Driver that is Registered with Both Operating System and Network Processor". However, should the Examiner have any suggestions for a title which is believed more descriptive, such suggestions would be appreciated.

Initially, the indication that claims 15-18 and 23-26 are allowable is appreciatively noted. Claims 15, 16, 18, 23, 24 and 26 have each been amended into allowable form. Accordingly, all of claims 15-18 and 23-26 should be in allowable form as per the Official Action's indication of same. The argument set forth herein does not apply to these previously-allowable claims.

Claims 11-14 and 19-22 stand rejected over Chen in view of Beal. These contentions are respectfully traversed for reasons set forth herein.

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Specifically, claim 11 recites instantiating a driver to communicate between an operating system and the network processor and registering the driver with the operating system and also registering the same driver with the network processor.

In order to emphasize that the driver is the same driver, claim 11 has been amended to refer to the driver as the "first driver"; and that same first driver is registered both with the operating system and the network processor.

The rejection states that Chen teaches using a driver to communicate between an operating system and a network processor. However, as noted by the rejection, Chen teaches nothing about registering the driver with the operating system and network processor. The rejection suggests, however, that Beal teaches registering the driver with the OS and a network processor. In general, Beal teaches that the device driver can be basically a flexible device driver, that is it can be used for many different purposes. The cited portion (column 11, lines 7-10) states, in general, the basic idea that a new device driver can be used to support a new operating system or network protocol or adapter hardware. All this states is that a new device driver can be used. It states nothing about using the same device driver with both the operating system and the network processor, as claimed.

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Claim 11, in contrast, states that the same, first driver is registered with both the operating system and the network processor. While Beal talks in general about the desirability of making a driver that is as flexible as possible so that it can be used with multiple different components, it teaches nothing about registering the first driver with the operating system and the same first driver with the network processor.

Claims 12 and 13 define additional aspects which are in no way taught or suggested by the cited prior art. Specifically, claim 12 specifies that the first driver appears as a network interface driver to the operating system. Claim 13 specifies that the first driver also appears to the network processor as a forwarding interface. This type of driver/interface, which appears as different things to different elements, is not in any way taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

Claims 19-22 have been amended in a similar way, and should be allowable for reasons discussed above. Specifically, as described above, nothing in the hypothetical combination of Chen in view of Beal teaches or suggests a driver where the same driver is registered with both the operating system and the same network processor; nor does this teach that the driver appears to the operating system as a network interface device driver and appears to the network processor as a forwarding interface.

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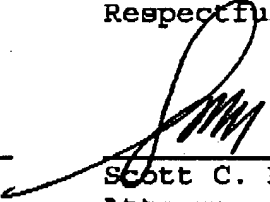
This is no way taught or suggested by the cited prior art, and should be completely allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, therefore, all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/10/03



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